

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY P:DNEWSOM:DAM

APPROVED BY P:DNEWSOM

NEA - JMIKLOS

NEA/PAB - JCOON

S/S-O - LRFLEISCHER

EUR/WE - MLISSFELT

-----015460 040228Z /70

O 040216Z JUL 78 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0000

S E C R E T STATE 168746

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PK, FR, IR

SUBJECT: NEWSOM VISIT AND REPROCESSING ISSUE

REF: A) PARIS 20891 (NODIS); B) ISLAMABAD 6335 (NODIS)

1. WE APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR HUMMEL'S COMMENTS (REF B) REGARDING POSSIBLE PAKISTANI REACTIONS TO FRENCH MOVE. WE ARE KEENLY AWARE THAT WE MAY ENCOUNTER STRONG PAKISTANI REACTION AND THAT OUR RESPONSE, AT THIS TIME, MAY BE CONSIDERED INADEQUATE.

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2. WHILE NEWSOM VISIT OBVIOUSLY RELATED IN OUR MINDS TO HOPE THAT FRENCH WOULD MAKE DECISION WITH RESPECT TO REPROCESSING PLANT, IT IS EQUALLY RELATED TO OUR DESIRE TO ASSESS SITUATION IN AREA FOLLOWING AFGHAN COUP. WE PLAN TO GO FORWARD WITH TRIP, REGARDLESS OF TIMING OR NATURE OF FRENCH DECISION.

3. OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE MANY UNCERTAINTIES. WE DO NOT KNOW (AND MAY NOT KNOW UNTIL IT IS DELIVERED) EXACT FORM OF FRENCH MESSAGE TO GOP. WE HAVE NOT KNOWN UNTIL RECENTLY EXACTLY WHEN FRENCH WOULD PRESENT DECISION. WE LACK PRECISE INFORMATION ON SAUDI AND IRANIAN ATTITUDES. WE CAN ONLY GUESS AT WHAT PAKISTANI REACTION WILL BE OR HOW THEY

WILL SEE THEIR NEEDS AFTER FRENCH ACTION. FOR THESE REASONS IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO MAKE ALL DECISIONS WE WOULD LIKE ON PACKAGE FOR PAKISTAN. FOR THESE REASONS, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO MAKE CLEAR TO PAKISTANIS IN ADVANCE OF VISIT THAT NEWSOM IS COMING TO ASSESS SITUATION AND IS NOT COMING WITH FINAL PACKAGE.

4. WE AGREE THAT MATTERS COULD PROCEED RAPIDLY AFTER JACOMET MEETING WITH PAKS, EVEN THOUGH WE CANNOT AT THIS TIME PREDICT ACCURATELY HOW THEY WILL GO. WE MUST LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER OR WHEN TO TALK WITH GOP IN INTERVAL BETWEEN JACOMET MEETING WITH GOP AND NEWSOM ARRIVAL. WE BELIEVE MAXIMUM EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO AVOID IMPRESSION THAT OUR DEMARCHE IS CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH THAT OF FRENCH. IDEALLY, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR YOU TO RESPOND TO PAKISTANI APPROACH OR TO TAKE INITIATIVE AFTER IT IS CLEAR TO THEM THAT FRENCH HAVE INFORMED US.

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5. IN ANY DISCUSSIONS PRIOR NEWSOM ARRIVAL, WE SUGGEST YOU MAKE THESE POINTS:

(A) NEWSOM VISIT WAS, AS SECRETARY TOLD AGHA SHAHI, PLANNED TO OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN AREA FOLLOWING EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND TO ASSESS WHAT U.S. MIGHT DO TO RETAIN INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN AND TO HELP FRIENDS IN AREA.

(B) IT WAS RECOGNIZED AT OUTSET THAT, IN VIEW OF U.S. LEGISLATION, REPROCESSING ISSUE WOULD BE SERIOUS OBSTACLE IN ASSESSING WHAT U.S. COULD DO FOR PAKISTAN IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. U.S. NEVERTHELESS HOPED THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER FRIENDLY NATIONS IN THE AREA MIGHT SUGGEST WAYS THAT PAKISTAN COULD BE HELPED, EVEN IF U.S. DIRECT ASSISTANCE HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE.

(C) FRENCH DECISION AT THIS TIME OBVIOUSLY NOW PRESENTS SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR NEWSOM TO DISCUSS RESUMPTION WITH SOME PRECISION THOSE AREAS OF COOPERATION WE MIGHT PURSUE IN WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD. HE WILL ALSO SEEK FROM GOP SENSE OF THEIR FURTHER NEEDS IN LIGHT OF

FRENCH DECISION AND SITUATION IN AREA. HE WILL SHARE WITH
GOP RESULTS OF HIS CONSULTATIONS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

(D) HIS VISIT IS INDICATION OF STRONG U.S. CONCERN FOR
SITUATION IN AREA AND, IN PARTICULAR, OF OUR DESIRE TO
MAINTAIN CLOSEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR
TRADITIONAL FRIEND AND ALLY. WE REALIZE RECENT PERIOD HAS

BEEN DIFFICULT FOR BOTH COUNTRIES. WE HOPE THAT DESPITE
OBVIOUS FEELINGS AND PROBLEMS, PAKISTAN REACTION CAN PRO-
VIDE CONTINUING BASIS FOR COOPERATION WITH OTHER FRIENDS
IN AREA AND WITH THE UNITED STATES.

6. FOR PARIS - 167550, WHICH WAS LARGELY DRAFTED BEFORE
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RECEIPT OF JACOMET'S EXACT TIME TABLE SUGGESTED NEWSOM
WOULD PREFER NOT MEET JACOMET IN PAKISTAN. WE BELIEVE
FRENCH SHOULD BE AWARE THAT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN NEWSOM
AND JACOMET IN ISLAMABAD COULD MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE
GOP'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS SINCE A MEETING WOULD
CONCRETELY SYMBOLIZE FRANCO/AMERICAN COLLABORATION ON THIS
ISSUE. HOWEVER, IF JACOMET PREFERS TO MEET NEWSOM IN PAK-
ISTAN, THE UNDER SECRETARY WILL OBVIOUSLY BE PREPARED
TO DO SO. YOU MAY ALSO INFORM GOF OF GENERAL NATURE OF
OUR INSTRUCTIONS TO AMB HUMMEL CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE.
AT EMBASSY'S DISCRETION, ANY ADVANCE WORD YOU CAN OBTAIN
ON THE EXACT INSTRUCTIONS JACOMET WILL CARRY WITH HIM
WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

7. FOR ISLAMABAD - ONCE GOP LEARNS OF FRENCH DECISION FROM
JACOMET, YOU MAY, IF YOU THINK IT ADVISEABLE, STRESS TO
PAKISTANIS THAT NEWSOM DID NOT COORDINATE HIS TIMING
WITH JACOMET. VANCE

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